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THE SOUTHERN BREEZE WINE + CULINARY FESTIVAL ANNOUNCES NEW VENUE

The *Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival* to partner with The Wharf for its festival in Orange Beach.

Gulf Shores, Ala. March 11, 2008— The *Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival*, presented by **DCS by Fisher & Paykel**, is honored to announce its partnership with the A.I.G. Baker Development **The Wharf** in **Orange Beach, Ala.** for the upcoming festival **May 2-4, 2008**. The Wharf will serve as the featured location for all events during the weekend-long gourmet food and wine experience. This three-day event travels across the Gulf Coast states educating and entertaining guests with Wine Dinners, a Grand Wine Tasting, culinary competitions, seminars, and a Walkabout Brunch.

The Wharf, located on the Intracoastal Waterway, is a 220-acre mixed use development serving residents and visitors with world-class accommodations, retail, dining, entertainment, and marina facilities. The Gulf Coast's premier resort and entertainment attraction, The Wharf features a 112-foot-tall Ferris Wheel, Main Street shopping and dining, a full-service 208-slip marina, a 10,000 seat amphitheater, Rave Motion Pictures, and a boardwalk with open air cafes and restaurants.

The Wharf hosts numerous events throughout the year ranging from New Year's celebrations to concerts by top national acts.; however the *Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival* is the first event of its kind to be held at The Wharf. "We couldn't be more thrilled that we're partnering with our friends at The Wharf for the Alabama leg of the 2008 *Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival*," said Mark A. Newman, Editor, *Southern Breeze*.

The weekend-long event brings travelers from all over the U.S. as well as locals to Alabama's Gulf Coast to celebrate food, wine, and Gulf Coast culture. On Friday evening, guests can experience the ultimate pairing during one of the **Wine Dinners**. Restaurants at The Wharf will host these five-course gourmet affairs, as local chefs pair their unique cuisine with boutique wines from noted vineyards. Saturday at the **Grand Wine Tasting** held on the scenic grounds of The Wharf overlooking the Intracoastal Waterway, approximately 150 wines will be available to sample. Wine seminars will be presented by **Michael Bryan**, executive director of Atlanta Wine School, and culinary seminars by **Chef Tim Creehan** of Beach Walk Crystal Beach and Creehan's Copper Grill in Destin, Fla. give guests the opportunity to heighten the Grand Wine Tasting experience. **Sunday's Walkabout Brunch** brings a close to the weekend as 10-12 local restaurants serve their signature dishes, each paired with a sparkling wine or champagne.

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“We are committed to bringing the good life to the Gulf Coast. This festival is a chance for the community to showcase their talents and the richness of the area,” said Newman.

The ***Southern Breeze Wine + Culinary Festival*** is a three day event that blends premium wines, food, and Gulf Coast culture into an entertaining, educational, and exciting weekend-long event. This year marks the fifth season of the Festival with stops in **Biloxi, Mississippi; Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Orange Beach, Alabama;** and **Beaches of South Walton, Florida**. For more information, visit www.southernbreeze.com/winefest or contact Karen Kirkland Ochoa at 800-239-9880 or kareno@compassbiz.com.

Southern Breeze magazine is published by **Compass Marketing, Inc.** based in Gulf Shores Ala. with an office in Ocean Springs, Miss. The quarterly upscale lifestyle magazine covers the Gulf Coast region from La. through Northwest Fla. Each issue highlights the unique lifestyle, travel, culture, people, food and entertainment that make the region a wonderful place to live and visit. www.southernbreeze.com.

Compass Marketing, Inc. is a multi-functional marketing and publishing company serving more than 600 clients in the travel and tourism industry throughout the Southeast and Mid-Atlantic regions. Compass is a leader in the field of tourism marketing and currently publishes more than 20 custom travel related publications. These publications and projects are created in the form of state, regional, local and private guides, vacation planners, newspaper and magazine inserts, interactive guides, special events, and other collateral materials.

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